

FACT SHEET



Economy Products Site Shenandoah, Iowa

April 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has released the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Economy Products site. The EE/CA examines alternatives to address soil contamination at the site, which is located at 8th Avenue and Southwest Road in Shenandoah, Iowa. The three-acre site includes the Earl May Seed and Nursery Company (Earl May), four nearby residences and a railroad right-of-way across Southwest Boulevard (see map on next page). EPA is conducting this action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund.

BACKGROUND

Agricultural pesticides were formulated and packaged at the Economy Products facility from 1961 to 1973. Business activities ceased in 1973 when fire devastated the operation. Smoke and runoff from the firefighting effort resulted in the contamination of on-site and off-site soil. Some pesticides released during the fire are now banned substances or have been subjected to restricted-use regulations. These include aldrin, dieldrin, endrin,

Availability Session Announcement

EPA will hold an informal meeting,
Thursday, April 20, 1999
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Shenandoah Public Library
201 S. Elm
Shenandoah, Iowa.

EPA staff will be available to answer your questions, one-on-one. You may attend the meeting at your convenience between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

EPA is currently seeking comments from the public on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the site. The 30-day comment period opens April 12, 1999 and closes May 11, 1999.

Comments can be submitted orally or in writing. Written comments (post-marked no later than May 11, 1999), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman, EPA
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

lindane, heptachlor, 4,4-DDD, 4,4-DDT, chlordane and toxaphene. Some contaminated soil was removed after the fire. Earl May, which owned property next to Economy Products before the fire, purchased the Economy Products property in 1976.

EPA's PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA evaluated alternatives to address the soil contamination at the site. The alternatives evaluated and EPA's preferred alternatives are included in the EE/CA. EPA's preferred alternatives for the site meet the requirements for overall protection of human health and the environment.

EPA divided the site up into three areas (see map), the Earl May property, the adjacent residential area, and the railroad right-of-way. Soil sampling indicates the soil on the residential property and the railroad property is contaminated primarily in the top 4 feet, while contamination in the soil on the Earl May property is found at depths of up to approximately 20 feet. EPA has made a distinction between the contamination on the residential and railroad property and the contamination on the Earl May property. This distinction is made because of the nature of the contamination and the difference in the way the properties are used.

Residential and Railroad Property

EPA's preferred alternative for addressing the soil contamination on the residential and railroad property is to excavate the contaminated soil and dispose of it at an off-site facility.

Earl May Property

If the property owner or potentially responsible party agrees to perform the work, EPA's proposed alternative would be to excavate part of the contaminated soil and consolidate it into the proposed cap area (see map for location of proposed cap). This area would be covered with a protective cover or cap, which could extend about four to five feet above the existing ground level. A chain-link fence would also be installed around the cap area to minimize public access and reduce the potential of compromising the cap layer. The cap would need long-term maintenance to ensure that its integrity is maintained. The cost to construct the cap is estimated to be \$477,400. Operation and maintenance costs for the cap are estimated at \$7,200 per year for 30 years.

If the property owner or potentially responsible party does not agree to perform the work, EPA will conduct the work. If so, the preferred alternative is to excavate the contaminated soil and treat it using thermal desorption. EPA cannot consider the above-described cap as an option because it requires a 30-year monitoring and care plan. Superfund law restricts fund-lead removal actions to one year.

Thermal desorption heats the contaminated soil to a high temperature and separates the contaminants from the soil. Thermal desorption may be done *in situ* (in place) or *ex situ*. In *ex situ* thermal desorption, the contaminated soil is excavated and placed into the heated thermal desorption chamber. The treated soil may be used for backfill or disposed of off-site. *Ex situ* thermal desorption is estimated to cost \$1,482,000 and take 10 weeks to complete. *In situ* thermal desorption uses a thermal blanket or thermal wells to heat the soil; only minimal excavation is necessary. *In situ* thermal desorption is estimated to cost \$1,827,000 and take 18 weeks to complete.

NEXT STEPS

After considering the comments received during the 30-day public comment period, EPA will make a final decision on how the site will be addressed. The decision will be published in a document called an Action Memorandum. The Action Memorandum will also include responses to the comments received.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the EE/CA for the Economy Products site. The EE/CA, the Community Involvement Plan, and other site-related documents are available for public review at the Shenandoah Public Library, 201 S. Elm, Shenandoah, Iowa, during normal business hours.

If you have questions or need more information on the site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
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Kansas City, Kansas 66101
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